

Community Services Advisory Commission

December 9, 2014

Minutes

Commission Members:

Present: Marilyn Baker, Ann Bohman, Mindy Carr, Mel Ehrlich, Warren Fishman, Derek Graham, Stephanie Hall

Absent: Christine Gawronski, Kelli Lynn

Staff Members Present:

Fred Hahn, Director of Parks & Open Space

Guests:

None

I. Call to Order

Vice Chair Marilyn Baker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Mr. Fishman said that Mr. Krause could not be at the meeting, but asked Mr. Fishman to discuss the email sent to the commission with the group. Mr. Fishman commented about the roles of this commission. When a subcommittee fulfills their task, we are supposed to be updating Council and reporting back to them. When the commission accomplishes something, we should be attending a Council meeting to let them know what we have been working on and we haven't really done that.

Ms. Baker asked if the commission should be reporting back in writing or if commission members need to attend a Council meeting.

Mr. Hahn commented that once the commission fulfills a task, the commission could attend a Council meeting to provide an update, but Council does prefer that when a subcommittee comes to their final conclusions that the commission reports back their recommendations in writing to Council. Council members do read the meeting minutes, so they are updated monthly, as to what the commission has been working on.

Ms. Carr arrived to the meeting.

Mr. Fishman commented that when Mr. Reiner attended the commission meeting with some ideas for this commission to pursue, that Mr. Reiner said when the commission reports back to Council with ideas and how to proceed the commission should also be prepared to implement the ideas presented. The commission's role is to make the recommendations and Council and if Council approves the ideas then staff should implement the ideas. Mr. Fishman said Mr. Krause is very in tuned with getting a climbing wall in Dublin and he has presented the idea to this commission, so if this commission agrees with Mr. Krause and feels it is worthwhile to pursue it, then we should make a recommendation to Council.

Ms. Baker said she had a conversation with Marsha Grigsby, City Manager about the implementation idea for these projects that was brought up by Mr. Reiner and Ms. Grigsby said the commission can move forward only after we have received approval from Council. We can discuss the ideas that are brought forth to the commission and decide if we want to further investigate the ideas and then if we want to make a recommendation to Council to move forward, we can do so and then Council and let us know how to proceed. Also the idea of a climbing wall is only being brought forward by one individual. Council is not at this time saying they want a climbing wall.

Mr. Fishman said when he joined this commission and he read the roles, Mr. Fishman said his understanding was that this commission was to come up with ideas, organize them and have the chair or vice chair present the ideas to Council and then Council should determine how to implement the ideas. Mr. Fishman said this is the point that Mr. Krause was trying to relay in his email is that this commission should really take a look at what our purpose is because Mr. Krause feels we are really violating the code and we are not operating at the commission should be. Mr. Fishman said that he would bring this discussion up for Mr. Krause since he could not attend.

Ms. Bohman said the one item she agrees with regarding Mr. Krause's email is that the role of the commission is not clear. Ms. Bohman said she decided to do some research about the commission and there isn't much information on the website. She also tried to pull up information on what the commission has been working on and agendas and minutes for the meetings were not all available on the website. Ms. Bohman said Mr. Krause did state that he would like to see a place where the public can provide feedback and there is a place where an individual can send an email with feedback.

Ms. Carr also commented that the commission meetings are on every City calendar so anyone is more than welcome to attend and provide feedback. She gets City updates on a regular basis and there are always updates for CSAC meetings.

Mr. Hahn also commented that all the minutes from every CSAC meeting do go into Council packets and they are posted on the City's website. Mr. Hahn said he isn't disagreeing with the statement about direct communication with Council, but they are informed of what this commission is working on by the monthly meeting minutes.

Ms. Baker commented that there are some meetings on the website where you can click on the link and view meeting minutes and some you cannot not.

Ms. Keplar said she would review the website to make sure the CSAC link is up-to-date with all agendas and minutes.

Ms. Hall said she agrees with Ms. Baker's comments. Some of the bigger items such as the climbing wall and dog park renovations, we should report back to Council in a memo or attend a Council meeting, but we shouldn't just report back to report back.

Mr. Graham said this commission is not violating any laws as Mr. Krause states. Also, we do need to have some discretion about what and how we report back about, because Council doesn't need to hear from us just for the sake of us constantly reporting back to show them we are doing something. We need to have something completed and be ready to make recommendations in order to formally report back to Council.

Mr. Erlich said he believes our role is to talk through items and determine what we want to move forward with, but also to discuss these ideas with staff such as Ms. Crandall and Mr. Hahn. These are great communication channels to go through also to get information to Council. There may be some ideas that we can discuss and staff may feel it's a great idea to move forward with, so our staff liaisons are great communication tools also.

Mr. Hahn said that everyone makes a good point. This commission does not need to report everything that has ever been done, but for example the fishing ideas were presented at a homeowners association meeting, so Council heard about it through that venue and if there are items that need approved through budget and funding, then that could require a report back to Council to get approval to go through the budget process. Mr. Hahn said as we further discuss items on the agenda regarding the dog park there are items that this commission discussed that do not require any further action, as staff will work on the implementation and there are other parts of it that have some larger budget implications that will need to be taken back to Council through the budget process.

Mr. Fishman said he agrees that we aren't breaking any laws, but he believes Mr. Reiner got us off on the wrong foot when he stated that the commission needs to implement these ideas. Mr. Fishman believes that this commission should make recommendations to Council and staff and they should determine how to implement the ideas. He was not aware that there was an implementation process on this commission.

Mr. Carr replied that there wasn't an implementation process on this commission. Ms. Carr said she has been on this commission for ten years and it seems to have changed in the last year or so. We actually sent Council our intentions and ideas for the year, but we haven't really had any final updates to give on any of the items prior to now. In the past, Council would assign CSAC tasks regarding items that had come before Council. An example was the Dublin Cemetery. Council asked to discuss and make a recommendation to Council on whether to expand the cemetery, close the cemetery or open another cemetery. After commission members received feedback from residents and staff and talked among the commission, determined costs, maintenance fees and options for expansion, this commission made a recommendation to Council to maintain the cemetery as is, due to the low demand and high cost to expand it. Mr. Fishman commented that Council did expand. Ms. Carr said they did recently but only in the current location. Ms. Carr said once this commission made their recommendation then Council discussed it and made their decision on how to proceed.

Mr. Hahn said staff found some space inside the cemetery that was thought to be unusable because there were thought to be indigent burials. We then hired an archeological group to do some ground scans to see if there was anything there and it was clear so we had it surveyed and expanded to add over 100 grave spaces.

Mr. Fishman thanked Mr. Carr as this better explained the past process.

Mr. Hahn commented that it won't be a one size fits all. An example is the climbing wall. There seems to be a real disagreement from what Mr. Hahn believes he has heard Council say and what members of the community continue to push. Mr. Hahn said he feels he has had very clear direction from Council that they are not interested in pursuing the million dollar variety of a climbing wall, but if this commission decides to pursue this idea and wants me to put it in the budget, then I would respectfully say 'no' you need to report to Council and get direction from them. On another topic, the dog park is not that controversial and there are some items that require minimum funding and some of the recommendations make sense based on the feedback from the users.

Ms. Baker said any group roles, goals and responsibilities have to be extremely clear in order to be effective and avoid conflicts. She said seems surprised that this group brings this topic up at every meeting, and she asked the commission after this discussion tonight if everyone is satisfied with the discussion or if we should actually add it as an agenda item for further discussion at another meeting. We either need to further discuss to make sure everyone is clear on our roles or we need to move on.

Ms. Bohman said she was fine. Mr. Fishman said he was fine with the discussion. The rest of the commission concurred there doesn't need to be any further discussion about the commission roles and responsibilities.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2014

Copies of the November 18, 2014 meeting minutes had been distributed by email to CSAC members for review. Mr. Graham moved for approval of the minutes, seconded by Ms. Hall. The minutes were approved as noted.

IV. Approval of Meeting Schedule for 2015 CSAC Meetings

Mr. Graham moved for approval of the 2015 meeting schedule, seconded by Ms. Carr. The 2015 meeting schedule was approved.

V. Update on Upgrades to Existing Dog Park – Fred Hahn

Mr. Hahn said he reviewed the minutes from April when this commission discussed some comments from the users of the dog park and made some recommendations for improvements. Some of these items are very simple and staff can move forward. We tried to experiment with residents bringing grocery bags for dog waste and we could re-evaluate that process, but if this commission believes it would be a better idea to purchase traditional dispensers for dog waste, it's not a large budget item so we can move forward with that. The other item, which Mr. Hahn interprets as placing some boulders in the park for dog, is also one that staff can complete. We have a large supply of some rectangular bridge abutment stones and Mr. Hahn said we could have them stacked in a two level step pyramid the dogs that would be stable for the dogs to play on.

Mr. Hahn said another request is to put a hose out there for water to rinse of the dogs when it is muddy. The City has two sources of water at that park. We have irrigation water, which is well water and it is not necessarily unsafe but we also don't really want people using it to get water to drink from. There is also City water for the drinking fountains and we need to be careful of using that water for a hose because it is metered, so if we have a hose out there and it is continually left on then there will be a cost associated with that usage. Mr. Hahn is optimistic about our ability to provide a wash off hose out there, we just need to do some further research on the best way to do this.

Mr. Hahn said the request for a shade structure is a larger budget item. We can put something on the south end along the fence line and this should project a good amount of surface shade area, but those have some budget implications involved. That would have to be included in the budget process for the next budget cycle which would be for the 2016 budget process.

Mr. Fishman asked if it has been determined that there is no need for another dog park.

Mr. Hahn said after reviewing the minutes from this discussion and determining if there has been a measurable amount of outcry from the public, the answer seems to be no. But in further discussion, as Mr. Warren asked the question before if there is a need to expand then should it be the obligation of the City or the developer.

Mr. Fishman asked if we should make the recommendation to Council that they include it in their new zonings.

Mr. Hahn said it probably is a good idea. This seems to be one of those areas, where Council doesn't really want to keep building dog parks, so this not necessarily involve a complete discussion about zoning, but when this commission reports back on the topic of dog parks, there could be a few sentences included that address this topic about new development. Mr. Hahn also commented that based on this discussion about dog park recommendations, it seems that this topic has come to a conclusion and what is lacking is basically a summary of the findings. There should be a brief report with the official findings and action steps to complete this topic of discussion. Mr. Hahn will draft the memo

regarding the dog park recommendations and this commission can review and edit the report for Council then we will get it in Council packets at the next possible Council meeting.

Ms. Carr asked in regards to the current dog park if there is any plan to add any trees or expanding the area.

Mr. Hahn said the original design of the dog park did go into the woodlot, but there are vernal pools at the edge of the wood lot and the only way to expand would be to destroy the vernal pools. He said we can add some trees out there also. We have already expanded into some of the area which we had to get permission from AEP to use it and it was a difficult process to expand into their easement. Chances are if we asked to expand into more of their area, it would more than likely be denied.

Ms. Bohman asked if there would be any increase of benches or staff would add benches when they put the shelter out there

Mr. Hahn said there are no plans to add benches, but we can. Also, there won't really be a shelter but a shade canopy to provide some shade for the users.

VI. Subcommittee Project Updates – Committee Members

Scioto River Trail

No update

Geocaching

No update

Pianos

Complete

Bicycle Friendly Community

Ms. Baker said subcommittee will be looking on line at the other communities that have reached the platinum and gold levels to see what ideas we can find to improve on our education and encouragement aspect. Ms. Baker said she has this list of communities and will send it out to the commission.

Ms. Bohman said at one of the last meetings Mr. Krause attended he discussed the bike lanes on Muirfield Drive. Ms. Bohman was inquiring as to an update. Ms. Crandall was going to discuss this with Engineering and report back.

Mr. Hahn said he was not aware of an update. The commission can discuss with Ms. Crandall at the January meeting.

Climbing Wall

Ms. Baker said just one comment she heard about the climbing walls. She spoke with a couple that is very familiar with climbing walls and he actually made a point that the climbing wall in Columbus has deteriorated since it was originally developed and if Dublin is going to consider investing in a climbing wall they may want to look different materials for the wall.

Indoor Science

Ms. Bohman said the subcommittee has been looking into the City's plans for the Holder-Wright development. A part of the plan is to have an interpretive education section for children. Once we review the plan, ideas could be incorporated in the upcoming design process.

Mr. Hahn commented that the Holder-Wright master plan was generated as a result from the Holder-Wright Earthworks committee that put together recommendations. The master plan is complete so therefore the committee has concluded. In 2015 we have funds for design of the next phase of that

park which is the visitors/orientation welcome area which the perfect place to start the educational component of that park. That park will be years in the making before it is complete. This park is off of Bright Road and the entrance to the park will be off the new section of Emerald Parkway. Currently there are 'no trespassing' signs due to the publicity of the park and the fear of unauthorized poachers taking artifacts from the property.

Ms. Bohman the subcommittee also wanted to work with the City to link the City's website and recreational programs with the Columbus Parent Magazine to provide information on other opportunities. We are working with Mr. Earman at the recreation center to do this.

Fishing

Ms. Bohman said the subcommittee is working on a list of ideas of information to put on the City's website regarding fishing in Dublin. She asked if at this point if the subcommittee needs to share with Council what we are recommending since some of it will take staff time.

Mr. Hahn said yes, the subcommittee should put together a report for Council and have the commission review it for approval to move forward and present to Council a summary of your findings and recommendations.

Ms. Bohman said they will put together a draft memo for review by this commission for the next meeting.

VII. Next Meeting – January 13, 2015

The next CSAC meeting will be on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at Council Chambers.

Ms. Baker confirmed the two items we should be prepared to discuss and complete will be the draft reports regarding the dog park recommendations and fishing subcommittee recommendations.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Carr moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Graham. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Marja Keplar, Administrative Assistant